

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 696

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mary Jo Denton on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in journalism; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jo Denton is one such estimable person who served with distinction for thirty-eight years as the crime reporter for Cookeville's daily newspaper, the *Herald-Citizen*; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20,000 stories with her byline have been published in the *Herald-Citizen* since Ms. Denton began her journalism career in 1975; and

WHEREAS, within the cache of articles she penned are some of the Upper Cumberland's most controversial and shocking stories of murders, thefts, drug busts, and political scandals; drawing upon her close relationships with community partners in law enforcement, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, fire departments, emergency first responders, hospitals, and county court officials, she researched and wrote news stories of relevance and interest to a daily readership exceeding 10,000; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Denton has said that journalism is a workaholic's paradise, and she has diligently endeavored to meet all the challenges thereof. She cherishes the many rewards of her work, too; one of the greatest rewards has been the interactions she has enjoyed with a host of interesting people, and she is proud that, as a journalist, she listened to and learned from each one of them; and

WHEREAS, now when 6 a.m. arrives each morning in the *Herald-Citizen* office, Mary Jo's work space will be occupied by an outstanding successor, just as she predicted it would be, and her keyboard will be pounded by hands that ably carry on the tradition of quick, accurate,

and reliable reporting for the loyal readership, just as she knew would happen; Ms. Denton is settled and content living life at the more relaxed and slower pace of retirement; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mary Jo Denton demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and a grateful public as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Mary Jo Denton our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.